



NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES, INC.

ONE MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, NORTHWEST • WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001 • (202) 789-0031 • FAX (202) 682-9358

May 5, 2010

The Honorable Ike Skelton
Chairman
House Armed Services Committee
2120 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Howard P. 'Buck' McKeon
Ranking Member
House Armed Services Committee
2120 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Susan Davis
Chairman
Subcommittee on Military Personnel
House Armed Services Committee
2340 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Joe Wilson
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Military Personnel
House Armed Services Committee
2340 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Skelton, Ranking Member McKeon, Chairman Davis and Ranking Member Wilson:

On behalf of the 45,000 members of the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS), I would like to bring an important issue to your attention. Congressman Geoff Davis has introduced a provision for inclusion in the FY 2011 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) that would provide equity to members of the Reserve Component for the purpose of calculating disability retirement pay for service members who are wounded in action.

The inequity under current law results because a Reserve Component member only receives credit for the time actually spent in uniform for the purpose of computing disability retirement pay. For instance, a service member who has spent thirteen years in the National Guard may have only four years of service when duty days are calculated based on total points. As a result, the Guardsman may receive less disability retirement pay than his Active Component counterpart. Even if two personnel receive identical wounds from the same firefight in Iraq or Afghanistan, the Guardsman may still receive less disability retirement pay.

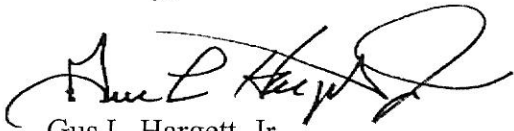
Congressman Davis' provision would eliminate this inequity between active and reserve personnel. Any reservist/veteran who earned the Purple Heart for wounds incurred in battle and who was medically retired as a result of that action would have his or her disability retirement

pay calculated based on the total number of years served in the armed services. As you may know, this provision was included in the NDAA passed by the House in FYs 2007 and 2009. A 2010 CBO score indicates the provision would cost less than \$500,000 in FY2011 and \$11 million over ten years.

I strongly urge your support for this long overdue provision in support of the Reserve Component.

Thank you for your service and consideration of my request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gus L. Hargett, Jr.", with a stylized, cursive script.

Gus L. Hargett, Jr.
Major General, USA, (Ret)
President